

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with atty. Patricia Chidiac on 04-08-2010.

The proposed amendments faxed by the applicant to the examiner on 03-16-2010 are entered by examiner's amendment on the attachment per MPEP 1302.04. Claim 126 was not cancelled by the applicant on the faxed attachment. **Claim 126 is cancelled by examiner's amendment below**, as authorized by the applicant.

The application has been amended as follows:

Cancel Claim 126.

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The closest prior art to the claim language as previously cited was Slomiany, et al. (6,612,927 B1), which is typical of slot machines and teaches an award indicator comprising a visible

number of rows of a plurality of slot reels (Fig. 1 of Slomiany, three visible rows of five reels visible, each reel has additional rows that are out of sight of the player), award symbols comprising the combinations of symbols on the reels, and activatable symbol indicators comprising the activatable payline indicators (Figs. 1 and 2 of Slomiany).

Olive (2002/0025849 A1) was relied on for a second set of activatable symbol indicators pertaining to a second set of award symbols, comprising activatable payline indicators pertaining to right-to-left paylines, in addition to the typical left-to-right paylines such as those taught by base reference Slomiany. The applicant in his amendment has tied the independent claims to the embodiments in the specification which comprise a spherical award indicator. The spherical award indicator as specified and claimed by the applicant has the advantage of providing two sets of award symbols, each set of award symbols having its own respective set of activatable symbol indicators. The two sets of award symbols have an advantage of providing two sets of winning opportunities to the player. The spherical award indicator which carries the two sets of award symbols has the advantage of being simple for the player to visually interpret in contrast to slot machines such as Slomiany in which there are plural reels which move relative to each other and relative to the activatable payline indicators; this makes the spinning of the spherical award indicator and the visual determination of the presented first and/or second awards visually simple since there are not multiple reels to keep track of, only one sphere. The spherical arrangement has the overall advantage of presenting a potentially complex set of first and second awards and presenting them in a manner

which is immediately discernible to the player. The examiner respects that the applicant may have different reasons for allowance.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MATTHEW HOEL whose telephone number is (571) 272-5961. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter Vo can be reached on (571) 272-4690. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/M.D.H./
Examiner, Art Unit 3714

/Peter D. Vo/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3714